

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE &amp; DEPUTY SECTION 151 OFFICER</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Corporate Grants Programme, 2015/16 – grant applications</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Head of Finance</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Grant assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix A – Value You</li> <li>• Appendix B – Friends of Childs Hill Park</li> <li>• Appendix C – Barnet Borough Arts Council</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group (<a href="mailto:ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk">ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk</a>) (020 8359 2020)</p> <p>Flo Armstrong, Head of Libraries, Workforce &amp; Community Engagement, Family Services, Children’s Service (<a href="mailto:flo.armstrong@barnet.gov.uk">flo.armstrong@barnet.gov.uk</a>) (020 8359 7846)</p> <p>Zoe Garbett, Commissioning Lead – Health and Wellbeing, Commissioning Group (<a href="mailto:zoe.garbett@barnet.gov.uk">zoe.garbett@barnet.gov.uk</a>) (020 8359 3478)</p> <p>Matthew Gunyon, Acting Head of Green Spaces and Streets, Street Scene (<a href="mailto:matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk">matthew.gunyon@barnet.gov.uk</a>) (020 8359 7403)</p>

<b>Summary</b>
This report attaches assessments of grant applications by three not-for-profit organisations.

## **Decisions**

- (1) That, subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant, and, in the case of Value You, the special conditions shown in that particular assessment:**
- (i) a start-up grant of £4,368 be awarded to Value You;**
  - (ii) a one-off grant of £800 be awarded to Friends of Childs Hill Park.**
- (2) That, for the reasons set out in the relevant assessment, the application by Barnet Borough Arts Council for a grant in support of the 2015 Barnet Christmas Fayre is not supported.**

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 Voluntary and community organisations may apply for a one-year start-up grant of up to £10,000 or a one-off grant of up to £5,000 from the corporate grants programme.
- 1.2 Annex B to Responsibilities for Functions in the Scheme of Delegated Authority to Officers authorises the Assistant Director of Finance & Deputy Section 151 Officer to award grants of up to £5,000 to voluntary and community groups.

### **2. REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

- 2.1 The grant assessments herewith explain the rationale for awarding the grants in question.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 3.1 None.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The applicants will be formally notified of the decisions and the grants, if approved, will be paid following compliance with any special conditions.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan, 2015-2020, identifies a set of strategic objectives which frame the council's approach to achieving its vision of making local services more integrated, intuitive and efficient by 2020, aimed at ensuring that Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

5.1.2 The outcomes around which these objectives are prioritised include:

- To empower local residents and the community at large to play a more active role in improving their lives, local communities and public services
- To improve local people's life opportunities and family and community wellbeing
- To support engaged, cohesive and safe communities
- To work with businesses and local communities to ensure that Barnet's town centres benefit from growth
- To develop more innovative ways of maintaining parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups
- To focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough, supporting residents to live as healthily and independently as possible

5.1.3 The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in the delivery of public services having regard to the reduction in government funding, not only by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money but also by developing innovative solutions to problems and improving customers' perception of public services.

5.1.4 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the former Cabinet Resources Committee in July 2008, sets out guidelines to:

- bring consistency to the council's financial arrangements with the voluntary and community sector; and
- bring procurement from, and grants to, the sector into a single framework consistent with the council's procurement rules

5.1.5 The grants programme offers help to voluntary and community organisations (a) to develop sustainable new services and activities and (b) run a community event or meet certain non-recurring items of expenditure.

5.1.6 All applications are assessed on their individual merits against the council's policy objectives; the benefits to the local community; the effectiveness of the organisation in its service delivery; its overall value for money; its financial needs; and the budget for making awards. In the case of start-up grants, the apparent or likely viability of a proposal in the years following the period of the council's award is a critical factor.

5.1.7 The applications by Value You and Friends of Childs Hill Park fulfil these criteria and are recommended for an award. The application by Barnet Borough Arts Council is not supported because it fails the test of financial need.

## 5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2015/16 is comprised of funds deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity; a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme; and a sum of £51,000 collectively allocated to the corporate grants programme by the area committees with the approval of the Community Leadership Committee.

5.2.2 The current position on the funding available in 2015/16, which includes the latest instalment in the sum of £30,939 of the council's share of income from the Edward Harvist Charity, to be supplemented as further income from the charity is received, is as follows:

Budget item	Funding available, 2015/16	Approvals to date	Balance remaining	Recommended herewith
Edward Harvist Charity	£106,273	£45,300	£60,973	£4,368
Former Borough Lottery Fund	£15,000	£2,600	£12,400	£800
Allocation by area committees	£51,000	0	£51,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£172,273</b>	<b>£47,900</b>	<b>£124,373</b>	<b>£5,168</b>

## 5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The council has power to make grant awards under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.3.2 Under the council's constitution (Scheme of Delegated Authority – Responsibility for Functions, annex B), the Assistant Director of Finance & Deputy Section 151 Officer may approve grants of up to £5,000 to the voluntary and community sector.

## 5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 All grants are made subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, with which applicants are required to signify their compliance by signing a written undertaking. Amongst other things, the conditions cover how awards are spent, allowing council officers a right of access to proof thereof, and requiring notification of any change in an organisation's circumstances which significantly affect its finances, operations or grant entitlement. The council reserves the right to withhold payment of any approved grant, or to demand

full or partial repayment, if it appears that an organisation has failed to comply with any of the conditions attached to an award.

5.4.2 The shift towards greater community involvement in the delivery of services has involved some relaxation in the attitude traditionally taken to compliance with eligibility criteria before an award is recommended. Whilst all applicants are expected to satisfy basic governance requirements, such as having an independent management committee, it is accepted that community-led and self-help groups often require the support of a parent organisation or other agency. In cases such as these, account is taken of other relevant factors, such as knowledge of a supporting agency and mechanisms to manage an applicant's financial affairs. All applicants are expected to work towards full independence within a reasonable period.

## **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

5.5.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council and all other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race, religion or belief; and sex and sexual orientation. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making; the design of policies; and the delivery of services

5.5.2 All voluntary and community organisations grant-aided by the council are required to demonstrate that they have an equal opportunities policy covering users, staff and volunteers, which promotes equal treatment for all irrespective of their age, disability, gender, sexuality, ethnic background, faith, health, language or social and economic background. Scrutiny of compliance with these considerations, and how applicants support the council in meeting its equalities obligations having regard to the greater emphasis on commissioning and awarding of contracts, forms part of the standard procedure for assessing all applications

5.5.3 Awards from the corporate grants programme fund projects and activities in support of people from all communities, as in the case of the grants recommended.

## **5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 The applications in question have been assessed in conjunction with the

commissioning group and/or service delivery units as appropriate.

5.6.2 The chairman of the Community Leadership Committee has been consulted on this report and endorses the recommendations.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.

6.2 Council, 3 March 2015: approval of corporate grants budget for 2015/16.

6.3 Community Leadership Committee, 24 June 2015 (decision item 11): endorsement of decision by each area committee to allocate £17,000 of its available budget in 2015/16 through the corporate grants programme.

## **7. DECISION TAKER'S STATEMENT**

7.1 I have the required powers to make the decisions documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision-making framework of the organisation which includes constitution, scheme of delegation, budget and policy framework and legal issues, including equalities obligations.

## **8. OFFICER'S DECISIONS**

8.1 **(1) I approve awards of (a) £4,368 to Value You (b) £800 to Friends of Childs Hill Park, subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid and, in the case of Value You, the additional special conditions set out in the grant assessment.**

**(2) I do not support the grant application by Barnet Borough Arts Council in respect of the 2015 Barnet Christmas Fayre.**

**Signed**

*Anisa Darr*

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**Assistant Director of Finance & Deputy Section 151 Officer**

**Date**

**20 October 2015**

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